GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:421
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2007
TRADE WITH PAKISTAN
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the initiative taken for trade with Pakistan across the LOC has made any headway;

(b) if so, the latest position in this regard;

(c) whether any list of items for trade has been exchanged between India and Pakistan;

(d) if so, the details thereof and Pakistan`s response thereto;

(e) whether any date to start the negotiations on trade across LOC has been finalised; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

a) to f): During the India-Pakistan technical level talks held in May 2006 in New Delhi for trade across LoC, both India and Pakistan have taken the following initiatives
i) Exchange the list of items to be trade across LoC;
ii) Initailly, India submitted a list of 14 items whereas Pakistan list contained 15 items to be traded across LoC;
iii) India has taken a decision that if the proposed list is to be traded across LoC falls under India`s sensitive list under SAFTA, they will not be included for trade across LoC;
iv) Pakistan has now revised their list of 15 items by adding one and deleting four;
v) Both sides will meet shortly to decide about LoC trade in the next India-Pakistan technical level talks.